25 November 1980

His Excellency General Kenan Evren,
Ankara,
Turkey

Your Excellency,

On 17 October 1980, I sent you a submission through the Turkish Embassy in London conveying the profound concern and anxiety of the World Muslim Community over the detention of Dr. Necmettin Erbakan and other members of the National Salvation Party, and sought your personal intervention for their release.

May I say that, being a distinguished Muslim yourself, Muslims all over the world are looking to you to ensure that Dr. Erbakan and his colleagues are not singled out and penalised for their sincere beliefs and democratic political rights - rights to which you and your government are firmly committed, and that your intervention to order their release would not only be seen as an act of justice but would also earn the deep and widespread gratitude of Muslims throughout the world and of all those who believe in human rights and justice.

Since I am not aware if my earlier letter of 17 October ever reached you, I am enclosing a copy with this letter and I once again appeal to Your Excellency to order the release of Dr. Erbakan and the other members of his party.

In the last resort, if Your Excellency does not find it possible to accede to this appeal, might I request that Your Excellency kindly agree to the suggestions made in paragraph 3 of my letter of 17 October (copy enclosed).

I look forward to Your Excellency's favourable and early response and assure you of my highest esteem,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General